

Attorney Docket No. 9052.235
Application Serial No. 10/563,710
Filed: January 1, 2006
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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examination of the current application as evidenced by the Office Action dated June 18, 2009 (the "Action"). Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 21-23 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,354,560 to Johnson ("Johnson"). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,580,188 to Nowak ("Nowak").

In order to expedite prosecution, independent Claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended above to recite the recitations of Claims 21-23, respectively, and are therefore in condition for allowance as indicated in the Action. Claims 21-23 have been canceled. Claims 1-8, 10 and 11-17 depend from Claims 1 and 9, respectively, and are likewise in condition for allowance based on their dependency from an allowable claim. Such amendments are made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a continuation and/or divisional application directed to the previously presented claims.

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Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1-10 and 11-18 are in condition for allowance as indicated in the action and the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any matters outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

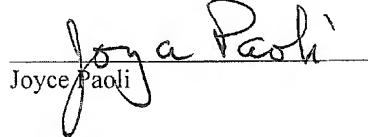


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Joyce Paoli